

sen illustrations, a few in colour. The author is careful to not intimidate the reader with too verbose a text or too complex a discussion of pathogenesis, yet introduces the reader to some basic concepts in neurophysiology and metabolic disease suitable for those to whom "neurology" invokes mystique, incomprehensible neuroanatomy, unpronounceable eponyms and the most somber prognosis. This book goes a long way in demystifying neurology to the first year paediatric resident if not to the practising paediatrician. Brevity and selectivity of topics are keys to its success.

The first chapter is a brief description of neurological symptoms and signs supplemented by a glossary of common clinical neurological terms. An explanation of the significance of findings pervades all other chapters as well and provides neither too little nor too much. A chapter on common neurdiagnostic procedures provides succinct and factual descriptions of various imaging and electrophysiological techniques, CSF interpretation, and special subtitles identifying paragraphs that explain the clinical applications of these tests.

The other 18 chapters are divided by clinical presentation rather than aetiology: paroxysmal non-epileptic; seizures; headaches, movement disorders; macrocephaly; hypotonia; sleep disorders in children; ataxia of acute onset; head injuries; neonatal neurology; assessment of school failure; and others.

I found only a very few minor errors, such as the misplaced apostrophe in "Gowers' sign" on page 8 and the misspelling of "Werdnig-Hoffmann" on page 97 but not on subsequent pages of the same chapter. The intentional brevity of the text precludes the expanded development of some complex themes so that one could always fault the exclusion of data, the incomplete development of topics and ambiguity as a result, but if the author had chosen thoroughness he would have failed to produce the type of book he so skillfully succeeded in writing. This book is not intended to compete with thorough and authoritative texts of paediatric neurology that often require two or three volumes. The only major flaw to which I would object is in the chapter on development in which the reader might be left with the impression that neuroblast migration is complete by five months gestation.

In sum, this is an excellent introductory textbook for medical students and residents in paediatrics in particular, and the author has artfully achieved an equilibrium between brevity and the provision of factually, clinically relevant information. The quality of the printing is good, the price is modest, and I highly recommend this book to directors of residency programmes and to practising paediatricians.

*Harvey B. Sarnat  
Calgary, Alberta*

**SPINAL TUMORS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.** 1990. Edited by Ignacio Pascual-Castroviejo. Published by Raven Press. 314 pages. \$118 Cdn. approx.

"Spinal Tumors in Children and Adolescents" is the sixth volume in the Internal Review of Pediatric Neurology series sponsored by the International Child Neurology Association. This volume was edited and largely written (12 out of 16 chapters) by Ignacio Pascual-Castroviejo and serves to cover tumors

of the spinal cord and the spine. In addition, it provides chapters on vascular malformations, inflammatory processes and congenital abnormalities.

The first chapter discusses the epidemiology of spinal cord tumors in children and provides in repository form, information from previous large series. The discussion of the pathology of spinal cord tumors is based on a gross morphological classification, and is clear and well illustrated. The investigation of pediatric tumors is discussed in light of current technology. The traditional investigative procedures as well as ultrasound and magnetic resonance are covered. Unfortunately, the MRI illustrations come from first generation instruments and, therefore, suffer from a lack of resolution and clarity. No comment is made regarding the role of angiography for the investigation of spinal cord tumors, arteriovenous malformations or spine tumors.

The chapter describing intramedullary cord tumors reviews Epstein's experience using aggressive surgery for intramedullary tumors. This chapter provides a number of interesting facts regarding astrocytomas and ependymomas. Unfortunately, information regarding the natural history of spinal cord astrocytomas and follow-up experience is not provided. This chapter does not flow easily and is difficult to read.

The fifth chapter, entitled non-surgical management of spinal tumors, deals extensively with the results of radiotherapy as a supplement to, and or in lieu of, surgery for spinal tumors. Once again, it provides both an extensive review of the literature and a succinct interpretation of the current state of knowledge.

The remaining chapters are all written by the editor. They, therefore, provide a consistent approach to further discussion of both spinal cord and spine tumors, as well as other processes. These chapters provide a descriptive analysis of the literature available and as such provide a good starting point for topic review.

Congenital malformations and infective processes are discussed in this book. They add little to the volume.

This volume does not discuss ancillary neuroradiographic procedures (angiography and embolization). There is no significant discussion of post-operative spinal deformities.

The editor has provided a review volume discussing spinal cord and spine tumors, which in itself, will be a valuable edition to libraries as it provides a focal point to past literature.

*Doug Cochrane  
Vancouver, British Columbia*

**CLARENCE HINCKS, MENTAL HEALTH CRUSADER.** 1989. By Charles G. Roland. Published by Hannah Institute & Dundurn Press. 128 pages. \$17.95 Cdn.

We owe, to Dr. Charles Roland, an entertaining and useful biography of a pioneer in the area of the distribution of care to psychiatric patients and mentally retarded individuals. Although this is not the history of the Canadian Mental Health Association – previously the Canadian Committee for Mental Hygiene – his creative activity is best understood by the development of this organization. Clarence Hincks received his inspiration from Clifford Beer, whom he met while visiting New York City and the National Committee of Mental Hygiene. After spending part of an evening and night reading, "A Mind That Found Itself", he met Beers and was so inspired by the man that,